

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

COMPILED AND CIRCULATED BY

PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

1633 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.



VOL. 4 NO. 8

OCTOBER 1951

MRS. ROOSEVELT, OTHER NOTABLES SPONSOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WEEK

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has agreed to serve on the National Committee for the Celebration of Religious Liberty Week (Sunday, October 28, through Sunday, November 4, 1951), an event which will be observed by citizens all over America in testimony of their gratitude for the blessings of religious freedom.

Serving with Mrs. Roosevelt on the national committee are the following: Bishop H. Clifford Northcutt, Methodist bishop, Wisconsin area; the Rev. Dr. Erdmann Smith, First Baptist Church, Denver; the Rev. Dr. G. Barrett Rich, III, First United Church, Cincinnati; President Walter Pope Binns, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri; the Rev. Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City; the Rev. Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, Third Baptist Church, St. Louis; President Charles J. Turck, Macalester College, St. Paul; Dr. Duke K. McCall, Executive Secretary, Southern Baptist Convention; the Rev. Dr. A. Powell Davies, All Souls' Unitarian Church, Washington, D. C.; Miss Charl Ormand Williams, life member, National Education Association, Washington, D. C.; and the Rev. Dr. J. M. Dawson, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Scores of cities are setting up Religious Liberty Committees, and are preparing a program of events with the following highlights:

REFORMATION SUNDAY, October 28, 1951, dedicated to the memory of Martin Luther and other heroes of freedom.

Monday, October 29, AMERICAN HEROES OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY, when civic clubs are inviting leaders to speak on Roger Williams, Jefferson, Madison, and other founders of religious liberty in America.

Tuesday, October 30, FREEDOM OF SPEECH DAY, when many will include this sacred freedom of the Bill of Rights in appropriate programs.

Wednesday, October 31, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY DAY—and also **REFORMATION DAY**.

Thursday, November 1, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DAY—recognition of this portion of the Bill of Rights will largely come through editorials and radio talks.

Friday, November 2, FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION DAY, when addresses will emphasize the value of free public schools in promoting tolerance for all faiths.

Saturday, November 3, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. Leaders will point out the value of the religious liberty guarantee embodied in Article 18 of the International Charter of Human Rights of the United Nations.

The week closes with **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SUNDAY**, November 4, when special services will urge citizens to work to maintain religious liberty in city, state, and nation. A packet of information on the week may be secured direct from committee headquarters at 1633 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.

More than two dozen larger cities are holding great Festivals of Faith and Reformation Services during Religious Liberty Week, including St. Louis, Kansas City, Cleveland, New York, and Birmingham.

D. C. HOSPITAL BILL HALTED

Consideration of the District of Columbia hospital grants bill (H. R. 2094) has been deferred by the Senate because of objections from Senators William Langer (R., N. D.) and Olin D. Johnston (D., S. C.).

Sen. Langer criticized the bill for placing what he considered an unfair burden on the states as compared with the amount of money to be contributed by the District of Columbia. Sen. Johnston indicated that the question of church-state separation must be considered in connection with the measure, which would allot substantial portions of its \$13,000,000 outlay to sectarian hospitals. (See *Church and State Newsletter*, September, 1951.) Sen. Johnston is a member of POAU's National Advisory Council.

(Continued on page 6)

"For All of the Children Of All of the People"

"... there is plenty *right* with our public schools, and let us begin thinking of that angle of the question rather than what is wrong with them. For that matter, if we want to keep the record straight, why not a campaign to show the American public what is *wrong* with the Roman Catholic parochial schools? Then what is *right* with the public schools will have the brilliance of a great beacon light on a dark night. . . ."—Samuel B. Woodbridge, in the *Scottish Rite News Bulletin*.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MORALS TEACHING A 'USURPATION'—BISHOP BRADY

The movement to make moral teachings a subject in the public schools was denounced as "a brazen usurpation of divine authority and prerogatives" by Roman Catholic Bishop Matthew F. Brady of Manchester, N. H., at a recent convention of the national Newman Club Federation in Manchester. The idea of inculcating morals "without God and His sanction," the Bishop declared, is "the most preposterous and blasphemous" of what he called the many crimes that have been committed in the name of democracy.

The prelate's unbridled denunciation was occasioned—as he himself indicated—by a recent publication of the National Education Association which defined "moral and spiritual values" as "those values which, when applied to human behavior, exalt and refine life and bring it into accord with democratic culture." Bishop Brady pointed to "divorce, birth control, dishonesty in business, disregard for truth, and the rampant perjury in our courts of justice" as current practices which have the approval of "our democratic culture."

Bishop Brady's outburst was another indication that nothing which the public schools may attempt to do will satisfy the Roman Catholic hierarchy—unless the innovations are made under ecclesiastical control.

'CITY' BOOKLET HAS CATHOLIC IMPRINT

A recent publication of the New York City Health Department offers symbolic proof that municipal officials consider themselves colleagues of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The department's pamphlet, *School Days*, lists titles of the following officials at the bottom of page 1 (in the order given):

- "The Diocesan Superintendent of Schools for New York
- "The Diocesan Superintendent of Schools for Brooklyn
- "Commissioner of Health New York City Department of Health
- "Superintendent of Schools Board of Education, New York City"

The back page of the booklet bears the names of John F. Mahoney, M. D., Commissioner, and Vincent R. Impellitteri, Mayor.

All Arab nations have been asked by Syria to ban Time magazine. According to one Lebanese newspaper, the reason is that the American weekly has attacked "Mohammedanism."

Chicago, New York Units Plan Events

A stepped-up program of POAU activities is getting under way in Chicago and New York, announcements from chapter headquarters in both cities indicate. In October, the Chicago chapter will hold a reception and tea at which Dr. Charl Ormond Williams, of the national executive committee, will speak; this will be followed by a public mass meeting in the Masonic Temple on November 29, to be addressed by G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist bishop of the New York area and vice-president of POAU. Mrs. Irma D. Carpenter, treasurer of the Chicago chapter, visited POAU headquarters in Washington recently and discussed current proposals with the executive director.

New York City's POAU chapter, the Metropolitan Committee for Religious Liberty, has established a Committee of 500 to spearhead a campaign in which every member will seek to enlist at least three new members in the chapter. Mass meetings, round-table discussions, luncheons and other events are being planned. Herman Seid, a prominent attorney and chairman of the chapter advisory committee, is doing much of the spadework. The Rev. Karl M. Chworowsky, pastor of the Flatbush Unitarian Church and a chapter leader, recently participated in the Annual Convocation of the Churches of Brooklyn, and described POAU's work to the gathering.

Louisiana Chapter In Mail Campaign

Largely through the efforts of Dr. W. W. Hamilton, president of the Louisiana POAU Chapter, and Martin E. Kranz, a charter member, POAU's message of religious liberty is being sent to thousands of citizens, who are being reminded that separation of church and state is under increasing attack.

Catholic School Strategy Revealed in New Statement

An elaborate effort to rationalize the Catholic position on federal aid to education was made at the 96th annual convention of the Catholic Central Verein, held in Pittsburgh recently. The Verein, oldest Catholic men's organization in America, adopted resolutions which held that "Catholics are by no means the only opponents of extending the federal power into the field of education," and deplored "the fact that certain enemies of the Catholic Church use the failure of the proposed legislation as a pretense to calumniate the church. . . ."

The makers of the resolution conveniently forgot, however, that Francis Cardinal Spellman and other top Roman Catholic spokesmen have *advocated* rather than opposed federal-aid legislation—so long as the legislation was to include parochial schools in the benefits. In view of the facts, the Catholic position on federal aid to education cannot be explained in terms of opposition to "federal power" *per se*. It is public education which is the hierarchy's target, not governmental power.

Ministers and Religious Liberty

Scores of ministers are encouraging churches to place POAU in their annual gift budgets. Others will take a special offering during Religious Liberty Week.

Correct Address

If your address on the NEWSLETTER is incorrect, or if you are receiving two copies, kindly clip or tear address off and send with corrections to the Editor. Thank you.

Church and State Newsletter

Compiled and Circulated by
Protestants and Other Americans United for
Separation of Church and State
1633 Mass. Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

NEWS From Far and Near

◆ The Spanish Catholic newspaper, "Ya," according to a Madrid dispatch to the "New York Times" of September 10th, has called for united political action of Catholics throughout the world, on the occasion of a special meeting of Catholic leaders in Sebastian representing Catholic organizations in Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland. A Catholic political international already exists with offices in Paris.

◆ A research project to determine what the public schools should and should not do to inform youth about religion has been announced by Dr. Arthur S. Adams, president of the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. The inquiry, made possible by a \$31,616 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, will be directed by Dr. Clarence Linton, who is on one year's leave of absence from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Linton promises to approach the problem "with scrupulous regard for the separation between church and state."

◆ Released time implies that someone will have to check on attendance, "because we can allow released time only for religion, not so that someone can smoke cigaret butts under the Second Street bridge," School Committeeman Frederick J. Carpenter of Pittsfield, Mass., observed recently as he asked City Solicitor Francis J. Quirico for an opinion on the legality of the practice. A Massachusetts law permits the release of one hour per week for religious instruction provided that no public funds or teachers' time are expended, but the taking of attendance would, presumably, involve such expenditure. In New York City, similar questions have been raised by parents who object to the released time system in operation in the city's public schools, and a recent state supreme court decision upholding the system is now under appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. In a report on the operation of released time in New York, the Public Education Association has found that it has contributed to increased truancy.

◆ *Novena Notes* of Chicago, published under official Imprimatur by the Servite Brothers of Chicago, is continuing the hysterical attack on Margaret Sanger and the *Reader's Digest* for printing a eulogy of Mrs. Sanger. Charging her with "killing off millions of potential American defenders at birth," this Catholic "journal of prayer" declared in a recent issue that the birth-control leader is "the greatest enemy the country has ever had to face" and that beside her Benedict Arnold was "a harmless child."

◆ The wrong remedy has been sought by Attorney William L. Sholes in his suit to bar use of Minnesota University facilities by sectarian groups, Hennepin County District Court Judge William C. Larson held recently. Sholes, the judge said, should have sought an injunction rather than a writ of mandamus. After the ruling, plaintiff Sholes announced that he will appeal the mandamus action. (See "Church and State Newsletter," July, 1951, for earlier story.)

◆ Is the testimony of atheists valid in Maryland courts of law? This is the question which Judge F. Fendall Coughlan of Silver Spring Police Court must decide before he can proceed with a civil suit now before him. The plaintiff, Majer Schwartz, and his wife indicated in answers to questions from the defense attorney that they neither believe in God nor belong to a church. Article 36 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights states that a person of any religious belief shall be competent as a witness "provided he believes in the existence of God. . . ." However, Quakers and others have been permitted to "affirm" rather than "swear" that they will tell the truth.

◆ Severe punishments, including excommunication, have been threatened by three Roman Catholic Bishops in the Basque region of Spain against any priests or theological students who "read,"

(Continued on page 7)

Clerical 'Shake-Down' Of Merchants Charged

The September issue of *The Converted Catholic* magazine carries an article concerning an ugly incident which occurred recently in the Washington Heights section of New York City. Taking reprisal against four local merchants who had allegedly declined to contribute towards the expenses of a Roman Catholic ceremonial parade, the Sacred Heart Church called for a boycott of the stores involved.

A press release issued by the publishers of *The Converted Catholic* notes that the May, 1951, issue of Sacred Heart's parish monthly cited the four storekeepers by name, and condemned each in comments of which the following is typical: "We not only regret that Catholics have traded in that 'hole in the wall' in the past, but we hope they will avoid the place in the future."

The Catholic parade was highlighted by the presence of Francis Cardinal Spellman and an escort detachment of the Police Athletic Band.

CATHOLIC TEACHERS URGED TO QUIT NEA

Assailing the National Education Association as an organization whose "pious mouthings . . . (are) all based on a phony principle of separation of church and state," Dr. M. J. Relihan, a prominent Catholic educator, recently urged all Catholic public school teachers to withdraw from the organization. Dr. Relihan, head of the department of education at Mercyhurst College, made his statement at Erie, Pa.

The sectarian leader's tirade against the NEA's "bigoted attitude" was occasioned by the fact that the teachers' organization had gone on record for the ninth straight time at its San Francisco convention in opposition to direct or indirect public aid to parochial schools.

Reminder

There is a considerable cost in publishing and distributing the NEWSLETTER to friends throughout America. If you have not already sent in your contribution covering a subscription this year, please do not delay any longer. Write to 1633 Mass. Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

France Plunged Into Turmoil by Parochial School Demands—Will America Be Next?

Two bills providing government aid for parochial schools were passed recently by a special session of the French National Assembly—but only after weeks of controversy carried on at white heat, with the Cabinet split wide open and threatening to dissolve from one day to the next. (See newspaper headlines reproduced below.) As *The Register*, American Catholic weekly published in Denver, noted, "For the first time in

Church School Row Threatens Paris Cabinet

PARIS, Sept. 4 (AP)—A difference within the government coalition tonight threatened to bring down the government.

FRENCH DEPUTIES EXCHANGE INSULTS

Gaullists and Radicals Abusive in Debate on School Aid—Cabinet Position Shaky

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
PARIS, Sept. 7—Tension in the French Cabinet over the question of a state subsidy to Catholic schools came to a breaking point tonight in a vote.

more than 60 years Catholic schools, attended by close to a quarter of the country's students, are to receive financial aid from the French government." One measure, *The Register* continued, "calls for direct government subsidies to parents of children in [Catholic] primary schools . . . to be used to cover operating expenses and to raise teachers' salaries, many of which are now far less than the standard." The other measure provided, according to the Catholic organ, "for a larger number of state scholarships for secondary school students, and stipulated that these could now be used to attend a Catholic as well as a public school."

Cabinet Still Totters

This Catholic victory—like all such "victories"—was won at the expense of the nation in which it occurred. The dispute over the bills, according to *The New York Herald*

Tribune, "engendered more popular feeling than German rearmament, the Korean and Indo-Chinese wars, or wages and prices." All signs indicate that the struggle has just begun, and anti-clerical leaders of various parties are vowing an all-out fight on the issue in forthcoming local and departmental council elections which will be held in half the cantons and cities in France.

Nor can Americans afford to look upon the spectacle of French national disunity with any feeling of complacent superiority. The bitterness of the school aid fight in Paris is not incomparable with the bitterness which has attended the school aid fight in Washington, as Congress after Congress has been stymied by the Roman Catholic hierarchy's intransigent demand that Catholic schools must get federal aid or no schools will get federal aid. The viciousness of the clerical attack on French leaders who stand for separation of church and state has been matched by the viciousness of the attacks by Cardinal Spellman and his colleagues on Mrs. Roosevelt, Congressman Barden and other Americans who stand for separation of church and

state over here. (See headlines reproduced below.) But history demonstrates that appeasement of the aggressors will only make the crisis worse. Americans should heed the lesson well.

CATHOLIC DOMINATION STIRS BELGIAN REVOLT

Forty thousand Belgian public school teachers recently demonstrated in Brussels against alleged government favoritism to Roman Catholics in filling vacant teaching posts. They demanded that the Social Christian (Catholic) administration withdraw subsidies from Catholic schools because Catholic religious teaching is already provided in state schools under a system which gives parents the right to choose either "religion" or "ethics" as a subject for their children.

Priest Fined In Mail Case

A \$100 fine was imposed recently on Father J. Alfred Roy, a Quebec Roman Catholic priest, for having admittedly burned mail sent by a Regular Baptist pastor to residents of Ste. Germaine. (*Church and State Newsletter*, September, 1951.)

Strife Erupts in Congress On Bills to Aid Education

By the Associated Press
Washington | But Mr. Loefer
Deep-seated differences over the

ATTACK ON MRS. F. D. 'NECESSARY,' SAYS VATICAN SOURCE

Reproductions of newspaper headlines of two years ago.

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

POPE LETS CAT OUT OF BAG—CHURCH SEEKS EQUAL AID FOR HER SCHOOLS

Government support of religious schools on an equal basis with public schools was demanded by Pope Pius XII in a recent address to representatives of 35 religious congregations at the First International Congress of Teaching Nuns. The statement becomes particularly significant when it is compared with a statement issued two years ago by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, in which he categorically denied that the Catholic Church seeks "general public support of religious schools."

The Pope's declaration—according to the September 23 issue of the national Catholic weekly, *The Register*, held that "All nations must give Catholic schools a status and freedom equal to that enjoyed by public schools, if justice and democratic ideals are to be preserved." The Catholic weekly quoted the Pope directly as follows: "We must expect from those who have a part in drawing up scholastic legislation a sufficient intent of justice and a sufficient—so to speak—democratic sense to meet the will of the parents in such a way that schools founded and directed by religious institutes are not placed in a worse condition than state schools, and that they are given that liberty necessary for their development."

Contradiction

On the other hand, Cardinal Spellman specifically acknowledged, on August 6, 1949—after considerable public protest against his attack on Mrs. Roosevelt—that the United States Constitution forbids the use of public funds "to pay for the construction or repair of parochial school buildings or for the support of teachers, or for other maintenance costs," and he denied that his church was seeking any but the most insignificant "auxiliary aids" from the government. Obviously, this would not put church schools on an "equal" footing with public schools, as the Pope demands.

As to which of the two mutually exclusive statements—the Pope's or Cardinal Spellman's—should be taken as the authoritative expression of the Catholic position, common sense leaves no room for doubt. The Pope makes his statement as the supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church, "infallible" in matters of faith and morals. Cardinal Spellman spoke two years ago as a powerful American subordinate of the Pope who had gotten himself into trouble by his inflammatory utterances against Con-

gressman Barden and Mrs. Roosevelt, and was seeking to "compromise" his way out of an exceedingly embarrassing situation.

D. C. CHAPTER ELECTS OFFICERS

The Rev. F. P. Harris, pastor of the Eldbrooke Methodist Church, Washington, D. C., was elected president of POAU's national capital area chapter at a recent meeting in the auditorium of the Baptist building. The gathering was addressed by the Rev. Donald McAlpine of the Washington office of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Serving with Dr. Harris as chapter officers are: the Rev. Herbert W. Baucom of the Takoma Park Baptist Church, first vice-president; the Rev. Frank K. Brasington of the Silver Spring First Baptist Church, second vice-president; Mrs. Emily Tipp, Christian Science practitioner, third vice-president; and the Rev. Edward O. Clark of the Chevy Chase Baptist Church, fourth vice-president.

Also, Miss Ursula M. Leipold, secretary; Miss Louisa Kroll, assistant secretary; Baptist Chaplain P. E. Cullom, treasurer; Miss Ernestine Matthews, assistant treasurer.

TAX CHURCH PROPERTY, UNIVERSALISTS URGE

Church real estate holdings should be subject to taxation "regardless of the use to which they are put," the Universalist Church of America declared recently at its 58th General Assembly in Portland, Me. "We argue for separation of church and state," a resolution adopted by three-fourths of the delegates said, "but in accepting tax immunity, we are violating our own position and placing ourselves in the position of accepting subsidies from the government."

Newton Upheld in Fight On County Church Aid

Elimination of all free county work for churches and other private institutions has been recommended by the DeKalb County, Ga., Grand Jury following a spirited plea from Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor of the Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, and chairman of POAU's executive committee. Earlier, the Grand Jury had tentatively indicated that its members did not see any illegality in the county aids. Dr. Newton's arguments, however, persuaded them otherwise. The DeKalb County Commissioner, Scott Candler, has also expressed his agreement with the new finding.

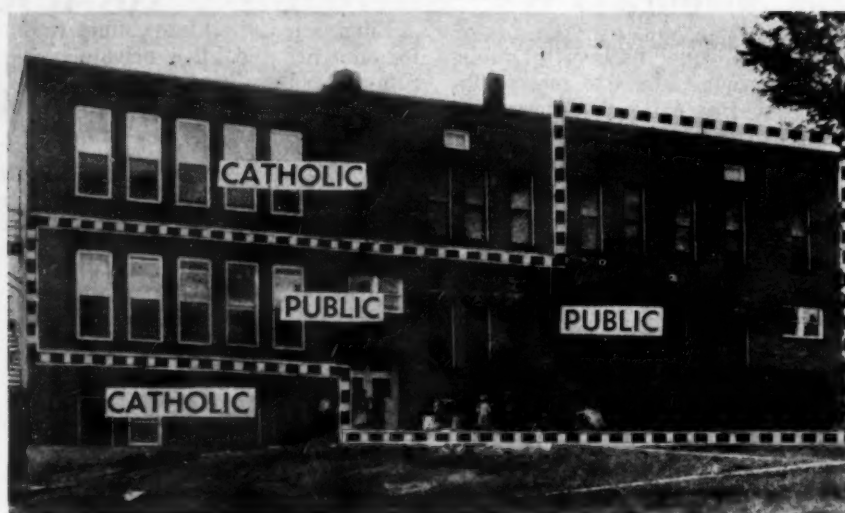
During the dispute, Dr. Newton revealed that he was preparing a resolution for submission to the Baptist Ministers Conference at Atlanta to prohibit acceptance by any Baptist church of aid from any government. He noted that he had introduced a similar resolution several years ago to stop the use of Fulton County machinery and labor for church purposes, and that the resolution had proved to be effective. (RNS)

'Churchman' Defines Public School's Duty

"... if we are to remain loyal to the fundamental principles of American democracy, there must not be religious teaching in the public schools. The facts of religious history are essential to an understanding of our culture. But the impartation of information regarding such events as the Crusades and the Reformation, if they are not interpreted in any sectarian sense, is not the teaching of religion, but the recital of bare facts. If they are meaningless without some sort of interpretation, as most of them are, both sides of the case must be fairly presented. But teaching religion with no attempt to create a loyalty to a religious doctrine or group is not teaching religion. . . ."

—Editorial in *The Churchman*, September, 1951.

WISCONSIN SCHOOLS SHOWDOWN DUE AS FATHER PRESSES FIGHT



MINNEAPOLIS STAR AND TRIBUNE PHOTO

"PUBLIC" SCHOOL AT LIMA, WISC.—Dotted lines show how building space is divided between parochial and public school classes. The building is owned by the Holy Rosary (Roman Catholic) parish, and, according to Father Charles Wolf, pastor, five garbed nuns and three lay teachers comprise the entire instructional staff.

Judicial review of the rights and duties of parents, public officials and parochial school authorities in the tangled Wisconsin schools situation will be sought when the trial of William C. Fox on "truancy" charges comes up in Pepin County Circuit Court, possibly at the end of this month. Fox, former chairman of the now-dissolved Averill school board, had been keeping his two sons home on the farm rather than send them to the "public" school at Lima, where classes are taught by nuns and held in a parochial school building. School Superintendent Wilbur Gibson filed suit against Fox for allegedly violating the compulsory school attendance law, after which a "temporary" arrangement was made by which Fox agreed to send his children to the public school at Durand until the court has an opportunity to rule on the entire question.

Accordingly, Phillip Fox, 10, and his brother Bill, 13, are now back at classes in Durand, with their father paying the tuition and transportation charges involved. Fox will ask the court to determine whether he can legally be required to pay such charges. (Originally, the Lima school board agreed to pay the charges for Protestant parents, but were stopped from doing this by an earlier court decision which held that one public school district cannot make payments to another.) Basically, Fox's case rests on the premise that a "consolidated" school such as that at Lima is in reality a "parochial" rather than a "public" school, and that the public school officials abused their power when they established the tax-supported school in a parochial school building

under ecclesiastical auspices. In reality, state and county education authorities—rather than Fox—will be on trial when the case comes up. The Lima school is one of twelve "public" schools in the state which are taught by nuns, according to State Schools Superintendent George Watson. (For earlier stories, see *Church and State Newsletter*, April, July and September, 1951.)

Lutheran Resolution

In the meantime, 700 delegates attending the annual convention of the Wisconsin District Brotherhood of the American Lutheran Church at Clintonville have adopted a resolution condemning the employment of garbed nuns in the public schools. The Roman Catholic Church, the delegates alleged, "is making a determined effort to dominate the public schools. . . ." The Brotherhood's executive board has appointed attorneys to study the case with a view to taking action.

HOSPITAL BILL

(Continued from page 1)

In spite of the objections, Sen. John O. Pastore (D., R.I.) announced that he would press for a vote on the bill.

'Times' Omits Important Part of Conant Speech

James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University and a leading atomic scientist, made significant predictions in a recent address at the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the American Chemical Society, and his words were duly reported on the front page of *The New York Times*. One prediction, however, was omitted from the *Times* account, though included in a United Press dispatch carried in other newspapers—a prediction that before the close of the Twentieth Century there would be "world-wide birth control, with religious groups approving."

The omission, whether made innocently or by design, seems particularly glaring in a newspaper whose proudest boast is that it prints "All the News That's Fit to Print." The *Times*—now celebrating its 100th birthday—is undoubtedly one of the world's greatest newspapers, but it is well to remember that its editors are human, that they are fallible, and that they may not be immune to the pressures by which all newspapermen are harassed. One of the most insistent of these pressures is exerted by the Roman Catholic hierarchy against all publications which venture to discuss ideas of which it disapproves. (See *Church and State Newsletter*, September, 1951, for story of boycotts directed against *Reader's Digest* and *Newsweek*.) It should also be noted that the *Times* has steadfastly refused to carry advertising for either of the two books by Paul Blanshard on the totalitarian practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

LOUISIANA TEST DUE ON TIME, BUS ISSUES

The state superintendent of education and the state treasurer have been named as defendants in two suits brought at Baton Rouge, La., to test the constitutionality of released time religious classes and free bus transportation for non-public school children. The plaintiff is George L. Singlemann, a Methodist layman who says that the suits are "strictly on the basis of separation of church and state," and that he is acting as an individual rather than as the agent of any group.

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA REFERENDUM ASSURED DESPITE FOES' TECHNICAL TRICKS

The people of California will pass directly upon the question of tax exemption for parochial schools in the elections of November, 1952—or earlier if Governor Earl Warren decides to call for the holding of a special election. Official announcement that referendum petitioners had obtained sufficient signatures to put the question on the ballot was made by Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan, who stated that 216,934 valid signatures had been received from 44 counties. This was at least 25,000 more than the 189,805 signatures required.

The opposition to the referendum had strenuously sought to have signatures invalidated on technicalities, and to apply pressure upon citizens not to sign the petition or to withdraw signatures already made. Nevertheless, the referendum campaign waged by the California Taxpayers Alliance, the Presbyterian Synod, the Northern California and Western Nevada Council of Churches, the Disciples of Christ, the United Evangelistic Churches and other groups was successful. The Catholic-inspired "Parents' Taxpayers Association"

failed miserably in its attempt to prevent a democratic determination of the issue by the voters at large. (See *Church and State Newsletter*, September, 1951, for earlier story.)

J. Arthur Younger, Northern California Chairman of the Taxpayers Alliance, declared that the number of signatures required for the referendum petition was quickly obtained because "The voters are incensed that the Legislature granted this tax exemption under authority of a Constitutional Amendment recently approved by the voters with the assurance from the Legislature that the Amendment did not include the power to grant private and parochial schools tax exemption."

NEWS From Far and Near

(Continued from page 3)

possess or pass on to others the publication "Egiz." "Egiz" is a small publication which has been appearing for about three years under the description, "Publication of Basque priests." When Bishop Joaquin Font Andreu of San Sebastian was appointed last year, "Egiz" carried an article addressed to him directly, saying that Basque priests always would stand firm "against the tyranny that is the enemy of civil liberty." Now Bishop Andreu, together with Bishops Gonzalez of Bilbao and Bueno y Monreal of Vitoria, has moved to suppress the journal, threatening to invoke "Canon 2,331, with penalties suited to the gravity of their offense and sufficient to make up for the scandal caused."

♦ The legality of using public funds for medical services in parochial schools is under scrutiny in Lyndhurst, N. J., where the school board has received a request for such services from Father Ladislaus Wilczewski of St. Michael's Church. The board has asked the State Education Department for a ruling on Father Wilczewski's request, which specifically mentioned "necessary medical equipment for the nurse's room" and "the assignment of a nurse and doctor for our school children."

♦ Four out of nine plaques which have been designed for the new United States Courthouse being built in Washington, D. C., contain specifically Christian symbolism which has been criticized by some who contend that the plaques would be out of place on a public building. The designs commemorate various holidays, including New Year's, Washington's birthday, Easter (showing Christ risen), Memorial Day (with a cross marking a soldier's grave), the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Armistice Day, Thanksgiving (showing a church steeple) and Christmas (showing Madonna and Child).

♦ For preaching a new religion described as "a mixture of Christianity and Judaism," three men and a woman were arrested recently in southern Syria, according to Arab press reports. (RNS)

Judicial Appointments

"It is shocking to think that an individual's religion would be the primary basis for his selection to the Federal judiciary, yet that is exactly what Senator Paul H. Douglas (D., Ill.) says it is for three Federal vacancies in his state. He told the Senate Judiciary subcommittee that he and President Truman agree that the three vacancies should be filled by a Catholic, a Protestant and a Jew, which puts it on the percentage basis. Senator Douglas explained that the religious basis was used by the President and him 'to develop unity to the fullest degree.' It was necessary, he said, to deal with 'realities.'"

"We wonder what the American and other bar associations will have to say about that. The legitimate bar groups have, over a long period of years, sought to have only the best fitted men appointed to Federal judgeships. At no time have they recognized religion as being a prerequisite for appointment, nor would they. The very idea is in conflict with all basic American concepts, and that it should be espoused by Senator Douglas is disappointing, to say the least. . . ."

"Memphis Commercial Appeal."

Advice Worth Considering

"In government it is not sufficient to eliminate only those intent on wrecking our nation," writes the Rev. James Keller, S. J., in his recent book, *One Moment Please!* "This is one sphere where no person of doubtful loyalty should be retained. You have this obligation both to God and country to see that only devoted citizens staff your government."

If the American people heed Father Keller's advice, there will be many a Roman Catholic government official who will find himself "eliminated" for having used his office to further papal policies which are incompatible with American democratic institutions.

(Cut out and Mail)

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O-51

High Court Bars Religious Garb in New Mexico Schools

Public school teachers in New Mexico may not wear distinctive religious garb in the classrooms, although members of Roman Catholic religious orders may be eligible to teach in ordinary attire, the New Mexico Supreme Court has ruled. The decision represented a partial victory for the plaintiffs of the famous Dixon Case, who brought the present appeal. They had contended that all Roman Catholic teaching nuns and brothers should be barred from the public school posts because their vows are in conflict with the duties required of public school teachers.

Justice James McGhee, speaking for a unanimous court, upheld District Judge E. T. Hensley's earlier action in barring 124 specified nuns and brothers from the public schools, while at the same time clearing 15 others because "there was no evidence to support a finding that they taught religion." The court also upheld Judge Hensley in barring public school classes from church-owned buildings, prohibiting the transportation of parochial school pupils in public school busses, and prohibiting the distribution of free textbooks to parochial schools.

Public Officials Rebuked

"In reaching these decisions," Justice McGhee observed, "We are not unmindful that members of the religious have served as teachers, and have in the past rendered fine service. The fact that they were teaching religion in the public schools in violation of the state and federal constitutions was well known to school authorities, both local and state—by them condoned and in many cases encouraged." The jurist also pointed out that after the Dixon case was instituted, the clerical teachers left their public school posts

on the order of Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne and not on the order of "the public school officials charged with such duty." (At this time, there are no Catholic religious teaching in New Mexico public schools.)

Despite the rebuke, however, state officials still give signs that they will try to take the teeth out of the court decisions. Commenting on the Supreme Court decree, Charles Witt, director of the State Education Department's textbook division, said that distribution of free textbooks to parochial schools had been stopped *pending action by state officials to "interpret" the decision.* State School Superintendent Tom Wiley has asked Attorney General Martinez for an interpretation—the same Attorney General Martinez who "interpreted" the original decision of Judge Hensley in such a way that it lost all meaning! (See *Church and State Newsletter*, July, 1949.) So far as bus transportation is concerned, the Supreme Court decision is academic, since the 1951 legislature passed a law permitting the state to provide the service to parochial schools, and that law was not at issue in the present case.

"Christianity neither is, nor ever was, a part of the Common Law."—Thomas Jefferson

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

Compiled and Circulated by
Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation
of Church and State
1633 Massachusetts Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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Blanshard to Speak In Score of Cities

Paul Blanshard, author of *American Freedom and Catholic Power*, and *Communism, Democracy and Catholic Power**, will speak in some twenty-four mid-western and far-western cities between November 7 and December 9, 1951.

Sponsored by POAU's Department of Organization and local ministers, churches, church councils and alliances, Blanshard will speak on the subject: "The Catholic Challenge to American Democracy." So great has been the demand for the author's services that POAU has been hard-pressed to arrange a schedule satisfying the requests of all local committees. It is anticipated that there will be "standing room only" at every meeting.

The schedule of the meetings includes these cities, among others: Baltimore, Md.; Cleveland, Ohio; St. Joseph and Kansas City, Mo.; Topeka, Kansas; Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas; San Diego, Los Angeles, Glendale, Sacramento, Palo Alto, and San Francisco, Calif.; Eugene, Salem, and Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Wash.; Denver, Colo.; Omaha, Neb.; Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Pittsburgh, Pa.

** Both available from POAU.*

ARCHER ADDRESSES CLEVELAND RALLY

A warning that "clerical fascism" could come to America in the guise of anti-Communism was issued by Executive Director Glenn L. Archer at a Cleveland POAU Chapter meeting on September 25. Some 400 persons crowded into the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church for the event, and the speaker's contention that only the people of free nations and free churches are safe allies of democracy was roundly applauded.

Raymond Spoerri, executive secretary of the chapter, announced at the meeting that Paul Blanshard, author of *Communism, Democracy and Catholic Power*, will address a chapter-sponsored rally on November 9.

Frank Celeste, chapter president, presided over the meeting. The offering was taken by Paul Folino, and Dr. John Wilkes, host pastor, led musical portions of the program.

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